

Google Groups

GROUNDSWELL MTG NOTES: 3/20/2012

conservativenetworking

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Posted in group: **Groundswell**

GROUNDSWELL: This meeting is about message synchronization, coalitional efforts and a 30 front war seeking to fundamentally transform the nation...

NOTES from March 20, 2013 Gathering

HASHTAGS AND MESSAGING:

#GOPNotListening

#PoliticsOverPublicSafety

#DoItTheRightWay [for immigration]

#SequesterLies

#GreatDivider, #ImperialPresident [for President]

ACTION ITEMS:

- Perez Nomination [Tom, Frank, Christian Adams, Danielle, Rick]
- Benghazi-Gate Meeting – Petition Drive, Event, Working group
- Conservative response to the Autopsy Report
- Immigration: Need increased contact to legislators, attend town hall meetings
- Rove Project: CAP taking the lead [Wes]

DEFENSE OF FREE SPEECH: SPECIAL GUEST [LARS HEDEGAARD]

The “first amendment” or the protection of free speech does not exist in Denmark or the rest of Europe. In Denmark there are laws (articles in the penal code) that make it a crime to be offensive in one’s speech. One law is a blasphemy law and another, a racism clause. It was under the racist clause that Lars was charged with a crime, making remarks about Islam and Muslims. He was eventually acquitted.

There are a couple of officials in the parliament of Denmark who are trying to do away with the blasphemy and racism clauses, however, the EU [and therefore Denmark as a member of the EU] is seeking to strengthen them. In addition officials are including other topics, such as Holocaust denial and Holocaust trivialization. This is dangerous and an attack on free speech.

The other main attack on free speech is from spokesman for Islam. Muslims make up only 4.9% of the population in Denmark, yet, the self-proclaimed spokesmen for the Muslims declare they have the right to impose Sharia on the rest of the people. This movement is growing.

In the opinion of our guest, the only remedy is to stand up and tell the truth. He makes a distinction between Islamists and Muslims. This is a crucial battle and the reason he was with us today. However, our guest has not received any support from the White House, nor has he met with any members of Congress, although he has met with some congressional staff.

As to the origin of the blasphemy and racism laws, the blasphemy laws are quite old. They gained importance in the 1930's, with the rise of anti-Semitism. The racism law evolved in the 1960's. The Soviet Union and its allies to stifle conversation or criticism of communism in the West developed it.

In this climate, truth is not a proper defense in a court of law. The issue becomes one of offense. The mere fact that someone takes offense is reason enough to be indicted.

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INFORMATION:

NATIONAL SECURITY: Free speech in America is under attack. Last night, Karamah, Muslim Women Lawyers for Human Rights, presented an event at Howard University. The title of the event: *The Limits of Free Speech in a Global Era: Does America's Free Speech Model Endanger Muslim Americans?* [Info on event [click here](#). Info on Karamah, [click here](#).]

The President is in the Middle East. While much will be made of his visit to Israel the consensus is the trip will not produce real support of or for Israel or its security.

Tom Trento's group, United West, has a great video by Bill Langfan, [A Soldier's Warning - Obama's Latter-Day "Munich" - Israel in the Crosshairs](#).

NEVADA – DEATH OF 7 MARINES: According to reporters Harry Reid has commented the deaths of these Marines are a result of sequestration. A more accurate comment would be that training is being impacted by the budget. Tragically this is probably the beginning of training related incidents and loss of life.

NPR: Programming this week has been attacking the military. Women are especially having a difficult time as they are being placed in more dangerous situations. The attacks are on the military as an institution.

PEREZ NOMINATION: It is important to keep in mind the national security threat represented by this nominee. [[Obama to Nominate Sharia Supporter, Illegal Immigrant Advocate as Labor Secretary](#)]

ROVE PROJECT: Rove is still actively networking and building his financial capabilities, an indication that we are not yet being effective. His associates have quietly contributed to the drafting of the RNC document, Autopsy. The Autopsy Report [Read the report [here](#)] has drawn fire from the Tea Party, social conservatives and conservatives in general. It undermines the RNC platform. [[Breitbart article](#)]

The Two Front War: The two front war covers finances and reputation. Rove has relationships built over the last two decades. He must become toxic among the grass roots and among his base. His effectiveness has been called into question on Sunday talk shows and at CPAC. Regarding financing, the donors to his crossroads are public. They must be educated to the fact, Rove is not a conservative and his efforts are not effective.

Rove's position as party spokesperson was established as a result of the Bush election. Rove gained the title and the credit for being the "great architect." FOX has given Rove a platform and just renewed his contract. In truth, Rove no more represents conservatives then Jessie Jackson or Al Sharpton represent all Blacks.

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SENATE REPORT:

PEREZ NOMINATION LABOR SECRETARY: Sen. Vitter announced Monday that he would stop the confirmation process until Perez responds to a letter sent in November of 2011 from Sen. Vitter's office asking why the DOJ civil rights division only enforces section 7 of the National Voter Registration Act [NVRA] and not section 8. Section 7 [Motor-Voter Law] automatically puts people on the voter rolls while section 8 requires states to clean voter rolls when people move out of the area or die. There was an internal memorandum stating it is the President's policy not to support or enforce section 8. There was also a memorandum instructing staff not to bring any cases of white voter discrimination; this proves an unequal application of law. [I.e. Black Panther intimidation case 2008] Perez has a track record of lying under oath and backroom deals. The facts are insulting to the rule of law and to Americans. His extremist positions are far outside of even the Ds' thinking. Sen. Vitter is going to hold up this process as long as possible. He has support from the HELP Committee possibly Sen. Alexander. On the House side Rep. Issa and Grassley are preparing. Sen. Session's office is assisting as well, developing tough hard-hitting questions for the hearing. The issues of affirmative action and EEOC policy will be included in the questioning.

SHADOW GOVERNMENT:

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE:

The [250-page report](#) on Tom Perez and the DOJ is devastating.

GARDASIL-HPV VACCINE: This week there will be a press release based on research done by JW revealing the vaccine's adverse effects on recipients, including deaths. The vaccine slated to prevent cervical cancer was first pushed on girls but is now being forced on young boys as well. This is merely a public health experiment with serious safety concerns. [Read more [here](#) and [here](#)]

IMMIGRATION:

Massive and instant amnesty programs are being proposed. Some Senators in the Judiciary Committee are pushing back against the "secret" bills. They are requesting open discussion that will allow for an analysis of the proposed bills. [[Click here](#) for the text of the letter to Sen. Leahy]

BUDGET REPORT: Three budgets to be considered this week.

1. RSC Budget: Probably the fastest path to a balanced budget; it balances in 4 years. It assumes the fiscal cliff tax increase in its baseline.

2. Ryan Budget: This budget proposal assumes the fiscal cliff tax baseline in its calculations and balances in 10 years. It lowers the rate of spending increases. Most members of the House are expected to support this budget.
3. Murray Budget [Senate]: Includes a \$1.5 TRILLION dollar increase in taxes and growth in welfare/entitlement spending. There is no proposed balance to this budget. Cong. Mulvaney [SC] will introduce this bill in the House. [[Read details here.](#)]

Conservatives should encourage those working on the budgets to make the Bush tax rates the baseline in addition to lowering the rate of spending.

CR: Expect a vote in both the House and the senate this week, maybe today or tomorrow; there are enough conservative in the senate to oppose it. CR is something conservatives should keep an eye on as well.

Debt Ceiling: will be coming up in the future.

UPDATE ON TACTICS OF THE LEFT:

Talk on the Left is that the GOP is self-destructing. The Left is defining GOP issues and we are “eating the cheese.”

Conservatives are so busy dealing with issues like immigration, gay marriage and boy scouts there is little time left to focus on other issues. These are the very issues the Left wants to avoid but we need to magnify. R’s cannot beat Obama at his own game but need to go on the offense and define the issues. Focus on the issues the Left does not want to discuss:

- Fast and Furious
- Obama’s record
- Benghazi
- State Issues

State Issues: New regulations are distracting Governors. Coalescing state groups to put pressure on the Governors and at the same time letting Governors know they are supported will encourage Governors to speak up. Identify strong Governors, like the Governor of Texas, to work together and fight back; this will produce better result.

The Left wants us to go in circles. Conservatives must hold the line and go on the offense. We

must be FOR something and communicate that to the public. Instead of being the party of “no,” R’s must become the party of “FOR.” This is not to say we abandon social issues but we change the framework of the message; we change the language. We are not against, but for something – for national security, for protecting our boys, for legal immigration.

BENGHAZI GATE: Cong. Frank Wolf continues his focus on uncovering more facts about Benghazi. The Congressman has asked for an open letter that could be posted on websites, encouraging support of HR 36. HR 36 calls for a bi-partisan commission to further investigate Benghazi. The commission should have the right people involved to insure proper subpoenas. There are over 50 co-sponsors and interest continues to grow on a daily basis. The purpose for the open letter requested by Cong. Wolf is to create more attention and develop additional public support for the bi-partisan commission. The open letter should go out on our websites, as broadly as possible.

We know there were 30-33 people who were survivors of the attack. Cong. Gohmert spoke to a survivor who was on the roof with two Seals. He is still in Walter Reid and was never been subpoenaed to testify. Indicating again, there is something amiss – the problem is Speaker Boehner and Mike Rogers (Intelligence Community) are refusing to deal with the issue.

Frank Gaffney recommended a petition instead of another open letter. A petition would be more effective to raise visibility and collect numbers of people. A petition could be put out on a number of websites. ACT! For America just completed a petition drive and delivered it yesterday. The petition of 25,000 signatures was presented to Speaker Boehner and Majority Leader Cantor. ACT! will partner on the efforts to do another petition. Tea Party Patriots also want to be involved.

Another way to develop public support is through articles and a public event. Leaders can and should be shamed into doing the right thing.

URGENT AND IMPORTANT ITEMS:

THE AUTOPSY REPORT: One thing that stands out, about the document, is it was clearly written by someone who is embarrassed by the conservative wing of the party. This report will be the death nail for R’s minority outreach efforts. Conservatives cannot let the report define the movement.

According to the report, R's must distance themselves from the "purists" in the party in an effort to diminish their influence. The "purists" in this document are the tea party people, Christians, gun rights advocates, etc. It is an attack on the conservative movement. The conservative movement needs to draft a response to circulate as widely as possible. If we do not respond to the document, if we let it stand as an authentic document, then it will define the conservative movement. Rove has been building his power base for decades. Change requires time and patience.

The Hill released a poll on the budget the same day as the autopsy report came out. The poll [[Hill Poll: Voters prefer Republican budget ideas, but dislike GOP](#)] laid out the two different budget plans. The results were clear. The public embraces the GOP plan and trusts that plan. HOWEVER, there is a disconnect among the public when the plan is identified with the party. The voters do not support the party even when they support the policies. This is exactly the branding problem we have been discussing.

"Rove does not speak for GOP like Sharpton does not speak for black community;" "Who put you in charge?" are powerful messaging points we should consider using.

HOUSE EFFORTS: There are a group of freshman and sophomore representatives in Congress who are willing and ready to stand up. There is a great deal of pressure on this group. Cong. Bridenstine is under fire every day. There needs to be a General, a real leader. No one is willing to step up and become that leader.

We cannot expect those in the chambers to respond to this need without help from the grassroots. It is the grassroots who will be the ones to make a compelling case for change and new leadership. We must organize a "groundswell" and a new leader will emerge. We need to develop messaging and build a case that "they" are not listening. Immigration may be the issue that puts the grassroots over the edge because the immigration policy is being developed in a very elitist, quiet, secretive manner. The consequences of the immigration policy have huge ramifications. Perhaps build a hashtag: they are not listening?

PEREZ: An immediate fight in front of us. Communication with staff is imperative. Staff will guide the opposition and bring the issues to the hearing. Additional communications from the public is also needed. The opposition will be lead by Alexander and his staff. The suggestion was

made that a group of 5 conservative leaders, respected by the senator and his staff, meet with them to inform and influence the process. A ground team from TN will be addressing the nomination from the angle of concerns about Perez's position on Sharia.

ILLINOIS GROUNDSWELL: The success in fighting the same-sex marriage issue before the IL legislators highlights the importance and the impact of public pressure on the process. Family PAC and other family groups gathered 5000 people who descended on the capitol to protest the passage of same-sex marriage legislation. Black pastors joined the ranks and pressured Black legislators. Public pressure in this blue state has met success. The bill is 13 votes shy of the necessary votes to pass this legislation. This is groundswell in action. We have a lot more power than we realize. Issues revolving around immigration, marriage and Sharia are upsetting to the public.

It is ironic the RNC document discussed earlier, charts a course away from social issues to capture the minority vote of Hispanics and Blacks. The fact is these social issues are the way to bring this constituency into agreement with conservatives. The idea that becoming more like the D's will somehow make the R's more appealing is false.

OLD AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

CPAC AND THE UNINVITED: Brietbart hosted a 2-hour panel on Islam/Sharia for "the uninvited" at CPAC. It was a standing room only event.

JW as an event sponsor had the ability to hold CPAC accountable and help provide alternative events. CPAC was a success.

GUN ISSUE: The assault weapons band will not be going to the floor; there are not enough votes to pass the bill. While this appears to be a victory, the legislation that will be going to the floor is problematic. The legislation going to the floor proposes a national background check system that will in essence register every person who purchases a gun. A national registration is disastrous; it provides the government with the tools and ability to confiscate guns. [Already seen in CA and NJ] According to at least one source, this is a win for the WH and in line with their objectives. We cannot afford to let our guard down.

NOTE: This situation provides cover for red state D's up for re-election. They will not have to go on the record on the issue of gun rights and can safely take the alternative, "more reasonable" approach by voting for gun registration and background checks.

BLOGGER COALITION: A blogger coalition from around the country has been developed. They provide a powerful way to push out the narrative. To take full advantage of their voices and abilities, action items and notices of press releases coming from this meeting will be sent out to them. Ideas, press releases, action items can be sent through the Google group or personally to Anita. A weekly newsletter with action items for bloggers hometowns would be helpful. Bloggers are not getting paid and would appreciate our driving traffic to their sites as well.

MESSAGING:

BLOGGERS: Bloggers are looking to get involved and are generally more aggressive. Their readership is young. The bloggers are mostly made up of libertarian minded conservatives. Because of their libertarian bent, we will need to be selective in what we send to them. The Benghazi issue is hot and would be a perfect opportunity to involve bloggers.

IMMIGRATION: This is another great opportunity for messaging. We are losing ground by not framing the message as an illegality issue. We are for legal immigration and against the violation of laws as opposed to being against people or a particular people group [i.e. The GOP is anti-Hispanics].

NOTE: Outrage over the secrecy component of Obamacare almost brought the bill down. The same can be true for immigration.

GUNS: Another messaging opportunity. The first gun control laws were tied to the Jim Crow laws and used to take guns out of the hands of newly freed slaves. This perspective can be used to undercut the narrative of the Left.

OTHER:

BENGHAZI – SUGGESTION: Hold an event on the Hill similar to the one held at CPAC. Invite staffers. The challenge will be to find the space on the Hill to hold such an event but there are allies who may be able to help.

FREE SPEECH: This is a movement issue that demands attention. This is a constitutional threat with national and international ramifications. It is a part of an effort to criminalize discussion of issues related to Sharia, terrorism and Islam. Even the President has stated: “The future must not

belong to those who slander the prophet of Islam.” It also includes a movement to replace freedom of religion with freedom of worship. Deborah Weiss has given a few briefings on this issue and the activities of the OIC [Organization of Islamic Cooperation]. Her next briefing will be Thursday, April 11 at the Westminster Institute in McLean. Leonard Leo will be conducting a briefing as well, information to follow.

NOTE: ACT! For America has a petition up on its website now dealing with Free Speech.

SPECIAL REPORT:

HOUSE LEADERSHIP: Leadership believes that Newt lost his speakership due to the government shutdown; as a result, the GOP avoids confrontations on this issue at any cost. Negotiation battles are lost before the begin because we announce our intentions and give away leverage. The arena and the rules must change.

COMMITTEE STRUCTURE: Committee structure needs to be reformed. Many Committees deal with the same or overlapping issues. For example, welfare is hidden among many committees making it impossible to find the redundancy.

SCORING OF BILLS: The CBO is the only scoring mechanism for bills. Scoring should be made competitive.

DECENTRALIZING OF POWER IN GOP: The Speaker holds the control in the House. He controls committees, chairmanships, meeting rooms, etc. Conservatives sell out rationalizing their compromises will position them to advance their agenda through committee work. In reality they are being bought.

ECONOMIC STATE OF THE UNION: The fundamentals of our economic system are still in disarray and have been since 2008. One out of every five people knows they owe more on their house than it is worth. Washington is dysfunctional and out of control. These are kitchen table issues that need to be messaged along with the solution.

SOLUTION: We must reorganize our problems and we must balance the budget. Our founders wanted government to be dysfunctional, making it difficult to pass laws was a built in protection. Once things are reorganized and on course it will be time to get back to being dysfunctional. Getting on course will send a message that will show America we are doing business.

Regards,

Stephanie Arje



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